

Minutes of the 10th Meeting of Governing Body of
Assam Project on Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Society
18th January 2018

The 10th Meeting of Governing Body of the APFBC Society was held on 18th January, 2018 at 12.30 pm in the Conference Hall of Chief Secretary Block 'C' at 3rd Floor, Dispur, under the Chairmanship of Shri V. K. Pipersenia, IAS, Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam and Chairman of the Governing Body of APFBC Society.

A List of Members and Invitees present in this meeting is at **Annexure-1**

At the outset the Chairman welcomed everyone present and asked the Project Director-PMU-APFBC to initiate proceedings.

Agenda-wise discussions and proceedings on the meeting are presented below:

Agenda-1: The minutes of the previous (9th Meeting of GB) were ratified.

Agenda-2: Review of Progress: The GB was informed that:

- i. The current term of the projects ends in May, 2018. However a request for additional one year has been sent to AFD for completion of Major construction works and consultancy for evaluation and drafting of Phase-II.
- ii. 67 JFMCs and 39 EDCs were provided financial assistance for entry-point activities.
- iii. An agreement was signed with TRIFED for better marketability of *Vanshristi* products.
- iv. A central sale-outlet - '*Vanshristi*' was ready at State Zoo premises.
- v. Electronic-ticketing at State Zoo has become functional.
- vi. All the 31 Nurseries proposed for generating planting material for indigenous multi-utility and fruit bearing species were ready.
- vii. Ten Social Forestry Parks were taken up for renovation.
- viii. Following plantations created under the Project were under maintenance:
 - a. 12132 ha. of normal plantations
 - b. 8473 ha. of JFMC led firewood plantations
 - c. 700 ha. of Block plantations
 - d. 350 ha. of Sal regeneration
- ix. 33 highlands at Kaziranga National Parks were under completion
- x. Since the last meeting of the GB additional expenditure of Rs. 30 cr. was made bringing the cumulative expenditure to Rs.185.24 cr.

W.K. Pipersenia
- 21/1/18

A gist of Component-wise progress was presented as below:

Component-1: Additional expenditure Rs.13.87 cr., Total expenditure 89.46 cr.

Component-2: Additional expenditure Rs.00.02 cr., Total expenditure 00.11 cr.

The GB noticed that the expenditure in this component were not up to the mark and suggested that all the procurement of Hardware shall be made through Government E-market (GeM).

Component-3: Additional expenditure Rs.12.28 cr., Total expenditure 79.76 cr.

Total number of JFMCs involved:	159,	EDCs involved	56
Micro-Plan prepared:	95 JFMCs	56 EDCs	
Funds for EPA released to:	67 JFMCs (Rs. 9.48 cr.)	39 EDCs (Rs. 6.65 cr)	

Component-4: Additional expenditure Rs.03.30 cr., Total expenditure 10.15 cr.

Members trained through Skill Development Programs (206 Training Programs)

Male	1478	(27%)
Female	3931	(73%)
Total	5409	

As regards marketing of the JFMC and EDC products the GB suggested that instead of diversifying the products focus should be on one or two standard products that may be produced in bulk and marketed through IKEA.

Component-5: Additional expenditure Rs. 01.29 cr., Total expenditure 05.73 cr.

Agenda-3: The Annual Accounts of the APFBC Society for the five year (Financial year 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17) were presented to the GB for vetting. After discussions, these accounts were approved.

Agenda-4: The GB was appraised of the significant issues discussed during the visit of High Level Delegation led by Hon'ble Minister (E&F) to France. It was informed that the AFD was open to a proposal for Phase-II, subject to satisfactory evaluation of the current phase.

The GB was of the opinion that the concept of "Exceptional Forests" and "Multi-functional Forest" of France may be suitably implemented in Assam. The criteria for designating Exceptional Forest may be identified and to begin with those forests at the mouth of the rivers may be taken as candidate exceptional forest.

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Agenda-5: The GB did not consider making any exception from e-tendering requirement for the Annex building and suggested to expedite the matter in the court and take necessary action as per the verdict of the court.

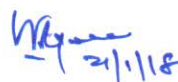
Agenda-6: The GB was informed that the proposal for award of Consultancy for 'Evaluation and Drafting of Phase-II' shortlisted after due process of International Competitive Bidding was not accepted by the AfD and the PMU was advised to re-initiate the process. Accordingly, the process was re-initiated through e-tendering and the Expressions of Interest (EOI) had been shortlisted after evaluation and forwarded to AfD.

Agenda-7: The GB was informed about the progress in the on-going construction project for Residential Complex at Rehabari. The GB desired that Intensive monitoring of the works and the time scheduling be done for the project. The GB was also informed that the Rehabari project and the Annex building project would take time beyond May, 2018, therefore, the AfD has been moved to extend the project period till May, 2019.

Agenda-8:

- i. The GB was informed that the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, under the aegis of National Mission on Himalayan Ecology has sanctioned a Project for setting up of a 'Himalayan-Nature Learning Center' in Assam at a total cost of Rs. 418.16 Lakh. This project is to be implemented by the Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB) in collaboration with the Assam Forest Department. There is a requirement for 10% contribution by the State. It was proposed that an existing sanction order to the Assam State Zoo for improvement of its Botanical Garden shall be suitably modified to suit the requirements of the NLC and the sanctioned amount shall accordingly be utilized. The GB approved this proposal.
- ii. The GB also approved continuance of the staff of the PMU till completion of the project activities subject to their satisfactory performance.

Approved



(V. K. Pipersenia, IAS)

Chief Secretary, Government of Assam
Chairperson Governing Body-APFBC Society

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